

Texas Health Trace Updates

for Local and Regional Users

This biweekly communication is intended to provide local and regional users of Texas Health Trace with useful information about recent and upcoming system enhancements and features.

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Major Accomplishments

- **Added Option for Contact Tracing Eligibility:** An additional option was added to the call center shunting process that allows users to select "Case Investigation Only" for case investigations which are outside the parameters of contact tracing and will only receive case investigation activities.
- **FIPS Code Bypass for Laredo:** Zip code 78046 will be used to assign cases to Laredo instead of the county's FIPS code to route for investigations and social services queue management.
- **LHA as City:** The Local Health Authority (LHA) user profile has been updated to allow an LHA user with a city jurisdiction to have access to perform CT/CI activities in THT.
- **Earliest specimen collection date:** The field "Earliest specimen collection date" was refreshed to populate consistently and accurately, documenting the specimen collection date of the first positive, non-antibody lab for each case.
- **Priority Queues for Call Center:** Call center priority assignment will be determined by the earliest specimen collection date associated with the case investigation. Rules for the queues will remain the same, cases with dates ≤ 6 days will be prioritized for investigation first, then cases with specimen collection dates between 7-10 days. Cases outside of ten days will populate in the general queue.

Latest Resources and Trainings

- 1/30/21 Release (Call Center)
- 1/30/21 Release (Regional/Local Health Dept)
- Case Shunting in Texas Health Trace
- Queues in Texas Health Trace (Regional/Local Health Dept)

All training materials can be access by clicking on link ([Texas Health Trace Academy](#)). If you need your log-in details reset, please reach out to your RLHE Team Lead.

Lessons Learned

- Expected processing time for manual line list imports is four hours; however, high volumes of import records submitted can increase the processing time. If the import portal indicates your file was submitted without errors, the records will process in the order they are received. Processing time will exceed fours when import volumes are high.



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Open Issues

- **Very High Priority/DSHS Ownership Cases** – THT logic assigns cases from facilities identified as vulnerable population facilities to DSHS case ownership and assigns the case priority to Very High. It has come to our attention that this process needs to be revised. Both identification of vulnerable population cases and routing of these cases for follow up are under analysis. Estimated deployment of a solution is Sprint 24.
- **Case Owner on Manual Line List Imports** - The routing of case ownership through line list import is dependent on the import type. Lab line list remains in RLHE ownership. School line lists will shunt to the call center if the shunting threshold has been met. THT developers are aware of the confusion this has caused and are evaluating solutions for updating the import file handling. Estimated deployment in Sprint 25.

Plans for Next Sprint Cycle

- **Script Update for Quarantine in Vaccinated Individuals** – Script text will be updated to reflect the CDC's guidance to not recommend quarantine for an exposed individual who has received a full COVID-19 vaccine series.
- **Lab delete permissions** – RLHE Epi Lead permissions will be updated to allow users provisioned as jurisdictional Epi Leads to be allowed to delete lab records.
- **Exposed Contact to Case Conversion** – The Exposed Contact guided workflow will be updated to convert the EC to a case when symptoms meet clinical criteria. Currently any documented symptom will allow the EC to convert to a case when using the guided workflow. The update will bring the guided workflow in sync with the manual 'Convert to Case' button.

